

PROCEEDINGS
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TWO NEW CROTALINE SNAKES FROM WESTERN
MEXICO.

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Among the many reptiles brought back from Mexico by Nelson and Goldman were three small snakes, two rattlers and a *Lachesis*. The two rattlesnakes are obviously alike and appear to be unnamed. So likewise the *Lachesis* seems to be hitherto unknown.

In naming these new snakes after Dr. Stejneger and Dr. Barbour, I gladly take advantage of an opportunity to show my appreciation of the advice and encouragement which they have so often given me.

Lachesis barbouri, sp. nov.

Diagnosis.—A small *Lachesis* with single subcaudals, 17 rows of scales, and an enlarged frontal shield.

Range.—Omilteme, Guerrero, Mexico.

Type.—United States National Museum, No. 46,347. Omilteme, Guerrero, Mexico.

Description of type specimen.—Scales in 17 rows, the first smooth, the rest keeled. Ventrals 154, anal entire, subcaudals 32 (23 single, followed by three paired shields followed again by six single ones). Tail apparently not prehensile. Supraoculars large, separated across the head by three shields of which the median is a large frontal and the lateral ones form part of a row separating frontal from supraocular. Supralabials eight left, nine right—none entering pit. Infralabials nine, three touching the one pair of genials. Two preoculars, four suboculars, two of which touch the third and fourth labials and the last two of which are separated by one scale from the labials—three postoculars. There are from one to three keels on the temporal scales. Nasal divided—one scale between preocular and nasal, a large scale in front of supraocular on top of snout. Canthus rostralis while distinct does not form an acute ridge as in *L. godmani*.

Uniform dull olive above. On the posterior fifth of the body there are indistinct light spots on the ends of the ventrals and on some of the scales

of the first three rows. These take the form of light bars four or five dorsal scale lengths apart. The scale which has the light spot also has a dark tip. On the tail these narrow cross bars extend to the mid-dorsal line. There are four such light bars on the tail, the posterior third of which is uniform and darker than the color elsewhere. The belly is very finely punctulated with light and dark. Head above same as body, an indistinct light band from eye to angle of jaw including the last four upper labials and extending more or less continuously though faintly above the edges of the ventrals through the anterior half of the body. Throat dark, last six lower labials with a vertical white bar.

Dimensions.—Length, 370 mm.; tail, 46 mm.

Remarks.—This snake merits comparison with *L. godmani* and *L. aurifer* rather than with any *Lachesis* hitherto recorded from Mexico (i. e., *lanceolatus*, *nummifer*, *lansbergii*, *brachystoma* and *undulatus*). It has a lower scale count than any American species.

With *aurifer* (the next lowest, with 19 scale rows) it is allied by the enlarged frontal and the ventral count. But it differs in the smaller number of subcaudals, in the two less scale rows, in the greater number of oculars, and in some being in contact with the labials, in the divided nasal, in the labials being occluded from the pit, and in coloration.

With *godmani* there is close agreement in coloration save in the peculiar throat of the new form, the subcaudal count is the same. *Godmani* sometimes has the enlarged frontal separated by one row of scales from the supraocular, the labials do not enter the pit, and the nasal is divided. But here the resemblance ends for *godmani* has 21 scale rows, a much lower ventral count, a more acute canthus rostralis and the suboculars are cut off from the labials.

It would seem that *barbouri* is a link between *godmani* and *aurifer* showing characters of both and being more primitive than either in head scalation and having (dwarfing due to altitude?) a lower number of dorsal scale rows than either.

It is interesting to note that *godmani* and *aurifer* are usually put in different sections of the genus because of the possession of a prehensile tail by *aurifer*, and these sections have been elevated at times to generic rank. *Bothriechis* Peters 1859, type *B. nigroviridis* Peters, for the arboreal, prehensile tailed forms; and *Bothriopsis* Peters 1861, type *B. quadriscutatus* Peters (= *castelnaudi* D & B fide Boulenger et Cope), for the terrestrial, non-prehensile tailed forms.

I do not believe that these divisions can be maintained on this character. *Bothriechis* is therefore the generic name for the American *Lachesis* with undivided subcaudals in case they are thought not congeneric with *L. mutus* and *L. atrox*.

***Crotalus stejnegeri*, sp. nov.**

Diagnosis.—A small *Crotalus* with a long slender tail, a very small rattle and with the first pair of lower labials long and produced backwards broadly in contact behind the symphyseal.

Range.—West coast of Mexico in Sinaloa and western Durango.

Type.—United States National Museum, No. 46,486. Plumosas, Sinaloa, Mexico; July 19, 1897. Nelson and Goldman collectors.

Description of type specimen.—Scales in 27 rows, the first smooth, the rest keeled. Ventrals 176, anal entire, caudals 44 undivided. Rattle very small, seven rings and button measuring 12 mm. long and four mm. wide.

Upper surface of snout with one large pair of internasals and a row of four prefrontals, the two outside ones in contact with internasal and supraocular—*canthus rostralis* distinct. Supraocular shields narrower than space between them, smooth—7–9 scales between supraoculars, and 10–13 scales in contact with them. Two scales between eye and nasal. Eye separated from labials by three series of scales. Rostral in contact with nasal. Supralabials 14 L, 15 R; lower labials 16, the first pair produced backwards in contact with each other behind the symphysial and with the third lower labial, thus cutting the second lower labial from the chin shields. Color grayish-brown; a series of 40 darker brown, black-edged dorsal rhombs (the first of which is split on the neck) three scales long and on seven scale rows. Alternating with these on the ninth scale row a dark spot covering about one scale. In the same transverse plane as the dorsal rhombs dark spots covering about one scale in each of the third, fourth and fifth rows. Alternating with these a dark spot on a scale of the first row and the tip of the preceding gastrostege. Belly grayish marbled with black. Tail dull brown with indistinct dark cross-bands. Head flecked above with black, a darker brown blackedged band from beneath eye to angle of jaw. Lower half of upper labials white. Throat white, a dark spot below angle of jaw and tip of lower jaw grayish.

Variation.—A smaller specimen with a rattle consisting of button alone—United States National Museum, No. 46,460, with the same data, shows few minor variations. On one side four series of scales separate eye from labials. The second lower labial is narrowly in contact with the chin shield, thus separating the first labial from the third. The scale counts for this specimen are V 174, C 41, Sc 27, L 14/13–14. Same pattern as type. Forty-four dorsal rhombs, two elongated black spots on occiput, a dark spot which is partly on the posterior end of the supraocular and a similar spot partly on the anterior end of the same scale.

Dimensions.—Type No. 46,486. Total length, 590 mm.; tail except rattle 77 mm. No. 46,460, total length, 284 mm., tail except rattle, 33 mm.

Remarks.—This snake scarcely needs comparison with any described form. The subcaudals are more in number than in any of the described species. The shape of the tail and the minuteness of the rattle are characters which scarcely stand out on paper but which are very striking in the specimens. The peculiar shape of the first lower labial is unique, also. In pattern *stejnegeri* is remotely similar to the snakes of the *triseriatus-pricei* group, but even here the relationship is not close.

Boulenger (Cat. Snakes British Museum III, p. 580) records a specimen of *C. tigris* from Ventanas, Durango, Mexico, on the western slope of the Sierra Madre about 15 miles from the Sinaloa border and undoubtedly in

the same faunal zone as Plumosas. This snake was Boulenger's only specimen of *tigris*. It was small (380 mm.) and has the following scale count: V 181, C 46, Sc 25. I strongly suspect that it is the present species. The caudal count is far too high for *tigris*. Unfortunately it is impossible to determine how much of the description in the Catalogue of Snakes is drawn from this specimen and how much from literature. Still a comparison with the description above shows many points of resemblance and a few of discord other than the two less scale rows and the slight ventral and caudal variations. Also the following statements are not in accord with the state of affairs in *tigris*. "Snout with distinct canthus," "a large scale on each side between the internasal and the supraocular," "three series of scales between the eyes and the labials," "dark-edged spots."